

HOW GREAT ARE YOUR WORKS – PSALM 92

INTRODUCTION

1. Psalm 92 is a psalm of thanksgiving and according to its heading, a psalm for corporate worship on the Sabbath day.
2. This short psalm continues to answer the question believers wrestle with about God's steadfast love and faithfulness (**Ps. 89:49**).
3. It is a well written and well-structured psalm that is like Psalm 1 in that it speaks of the "two ways" of life (**Ps. 1; Matt. 7:13-14**).
4. The life without God and the life with Him.
5. It reminds us of the need to remember and to see what the Lord has done for us.
6. It reminds us of the need to give Him thanks and to give Him praise.
7. And it reminds us that without Him there is no lasting flourishing.

DISCUSSION

I. IT IS GOOD TO GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD (PS. 92:1-4)

- A. The first verse gives us a theme that runs throughout this short psalm: that it is good to give thanks and praise to God (**Ps. 92:1-4**).
- B. The phrase, "It is good," might remind us of God's declaration about His works in the beginning (**Gen. 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31**).
- C. Why is it good to praise God?
- D. The answer is God's steadfast love and faithfulness (**Ps. 92:2**).
 - i. Remember that at the end of Book III, the psalmist was questioning what happened to God's steadfast love and faithfulness (**Ps. 89:49**).
 - ii. Here the answer is they have never ceased, and they are ever present.
- E. It is good for us, and part of our purpose in worship to declare these, to give thanks and to praise the LORD.
- F. Does the thought of praising and thanking God seem boring to you?
- G. Perhaps if we are struggling with this, the psalmist can help us.
- H. Let us reflect on the works of the Lord in creation, but also in Him giving us life and breath (**Acts 17:24-28; Rom. 1:20**).
- I. Let us reflect on the great work of God in saving us in Jesus Christ (**1 Pet. 2:9-10; Rom. 5:6-8**).
- J. For it is these that show God's love and faithfulness!
- K. But how should we praise Him?
- L. With joy and with song (**Ps. 92:1, 4; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Phil. 4:4**).
- M. It is good to give thanks and praise to the Lord!

II. THE DOOM OF THE WICKED (PS. 92:5-9)

- A. These great works turn the psalmist's mind to God's thoughts (**Ps. 92:5**).
 - i. God's ways and thoughts are not like ours (**Isa. 55:8-9**).
 - ii. As we noted before, God's works show His goodness and validate His thoughts and His ways.
- B. But some do not recognize them, and some do not rejoice in them.
- C. Some do not acknowledge God or give Him thanks (**Ps. 92:6**).
 - i. The psalmist says these are "stupid" or senseless, implying they are arrogant or stubborn.

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- ii. To say they are fools means they are rebellious and are “people who have a disrespectful attitude toward Yahweh and His instruction.”¹
 - D. They may seem to flourish and enjoy success, but like grass that suddenly springs to life and then withers away, they will be destroyed (**Ps. 92:7**).
 - E. But not so with God.
 - F. He will endure and remain forever and ever (**Ps. 92:8**).
 - i. This verse is the center of the psalm.
 - ii. There are 52 words before and after this verse.
 - iii. And God’s divine name occurs three times before and after which makes seven uses when you count this verse.
 - G. Those who refuse to acknowledge and give thanks are God’s enemies and they will not endure (**Ps. 92:9**).
 - H. God is the creator of all things, and no one can overpower Him (**Rev. 4:11**).
 - I. When we fail to acknowledge Him, we are in grave danger (**Rom. 1:18-32**).
 - J. Let us not be senseless or foolish, but instead seek Him and rest in His grace, mercy and wisdom and flee His wrath (**Rom. 2:6-11**).
- III. THE FLOURISHING OF THE RIGHTEOUS (Ps. 92:10-15)**
- A. This is what the psalmist has done, and he now recounts how God has exalted him and delivered him (**Ps. 92:10-11**).
 - i. The horn is a symbol of strength and vitality (**Ps. 75:10; 1 Sam. 2:1**).
 - ii. Oil is another symbol of blessing and flourishing (**Ps. 23:5**).
 - B. In contrast to the wicked who are like grass that springs up and withers, the righteous are like trees that have good roots and who flourish (**Ps. 92:12-15**).
 - i. This imagery is how the book of Psalms opens, where the righteous are like trees planted by streams of water (**Ps. 1:3**).
 - ii. The palm tree, which grows in well-watered areas and produces dates, is another symbol of vitality and life and the cedar symbolizes strength.
 - C. Interestingly both were used in building the temple (**1 Kings 5; 6:29, 32, 35; 7:36**).
 - D. In the same way, the blessing and flourishing of the righteous come because of their closeness to the Lord (**Ps. 92:13**).
 - E. What else distinguishes the righteous and the wicked?
 - F. The righteous declare the uprightness of God by their worship, praise, and life (**Ps. 92:14-15**).

CONCLUSION

1. How do we live when we see that the wicked prosper?
2. This psalm teaches us to seek beyond the present and remember that God is in control (**Ps. 92:8**).
3. That He is steadfast in love and faithfulness and is a place of refuge for the righteous (**Ps. 92:2, 15**).
4. Will we choose to be among those who refuse to acknowledge the Lord and be lost (**Ps. 92:6-9**)?
5. Or will we seek, serve, rejoice, worship and flourish in the Lord (**Ps. 92:10-15; Gal. 5:22-23**)?
6. May we seek and serve the LORD in Christ and be saved (**Rom. 2:6-11; Matt. 7:13-14; 21:23**).

¹ Barry, J. D., Mangum, D., Brown, D. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Ritzema, E., Whitehead, M. M., Grigoni, M. R., & Bomar, D. (2012, 2016). [Faithlife Study Bible \(Ps 92:6\)](#). Lexham Press.